GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3800
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
AVAILABILITY OF CHEAPER ARV
Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of the new Anti Rabies Vaccine (ARV) is rupees three hundred per vaccine and a victim is required to take at least five vaccines which is beyond the reach of the poor; and

(b) if so, the policy being formulated by the Government to make available ARV at cheaper rates?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS & MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a)&(b) : As per the present Pharma Policy, prices of Scheduled bulk drugs and formulations based thereon are fixed/revised under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 However, the Anti Rabies Vaccines are not under price control of DPCO 1995.Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in. view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses. R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc., The NPPA monitors the prices of medicines as per monthly Retail Audit Reports of ORG-IMS Research Pvt. Ltd, The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected. Prices of major manufacturer of Anti Rabbies Vaccine (ARV) as under:

S.NO	Name of Company	Formulation	Price
1.	M/s Aventis	Rabipur	Rs.309 perl ml vial
2.	M/s Serum Institute India	Rabivax	Rs.375.75 per 1 ml vial
3.	M/s Zydus Recon	Vaxirab	Rs.296 per dose
4.	M/s. Ranbaxy	Verorab	Rs.304 per vial
5	M/s Aventis Pasteur	Verovax- R	Rs. 296 per vial + 1 Ser.

A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Government on the 20tn September, 2005.

The Government in consultation with various stakeholders is examining the recommendations of the Task. Force. Based on this a new Pharmaceutical Policy is likely to be announced shortly.